Suspension of Himalayan Trek service by Vayudoot

980. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for suspending the Vayudoot's much published Himalayan Trek service; and

(b) what amount of money was spent on advertising the Himalayan Trek service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The Himalayan Air Trek operated by Vayudoot remains suspended during the Monsoons and other bad weather months.

(b) An amount of Rs. 4.94 lakhs has been spent on the publicity of the Himalayan Air Trek.

Non-participation of Indian runner in Los Angeles Marthon

981. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian runner Mr. Swaroop Singh had gone to New York to participate in the L os Angeles Marathon during March, 1988;

(b) whether he had actually reached Los Angeles;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which he did not participate in the Marathon which was held on 4th March, 1988; and

(d) whether his whereabouts have become known?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Shri Swaroop Singh, Indian Marathon runner boarded the PANAM Flight No. 151 leaving Delhi on 3rd March, 1988 at 0800 Hours and disembarked at Los Angeles on 3rd March, 1988, where he was admitted as a tourist to U.S.A. and given visa for six months by the Immigration authorities. Thereafter his whereabouts are not known.

Committee on the Affairs of Gastroenterology Department in PGIMER, Chandigarh

982. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by Government to make an in-depth study of the affairs of the Gastroenterology Department, PGIMER, Chandigarh, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, when the committee was constituted and when the report was submitted;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay; and

(d) what are the dates of sittings of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):(a) and (b) The Committee constituted in October, 1986 with the approval of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare in his capacity as the President of the Institute has not yet submitted its report.

(c) The Head of the Department of Gastro-enterology of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh filed a Writ Petition in the Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh challenging the formation of the aforesaid Committee and the Hon'ble Judges restrained the Committee to proceed further The Petition was, however, dismissed on the 4th May, 1987. Consequently, the Head of the Department of Gastroenterology filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court which was disposed of on the 11th May, 1987. During the Course of enquiry, the Committee heard 25 officers and also visited Gastro-enterology Departments of Post Graduate Institute of